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March 2, 1971

Honorable David W. Dennis
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

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Dear Congressman Dennis:

Thank you for your letter of January 28, 1971, inquiring, on behalf of Mr. Ray Mitrione, about whether it would be possible for the U.S. Government to offer a reward for information about the murderer(s) of his brother, Mr. Dan Mitrione.

While we fully share Mr. Ray Mitrione's desire that the murderer(s) of his brother be brought to justice, we believe a reward offer by the U.S. Government would undermine our long-standing practice of holding host governments responsible for measures designed to bring criminals in their countries to justice for crimes committed within their jurisdictions - even when such crimes are perpetrated against Americans. In this connection I should point out that as a direct consequence of the kidnapping of Mr. Dan Mitrione and the Brazilian Consul Dias Gomide, the Uruguayan Government did offer a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of terrorists. Though small by our standards ($4,000), that reward offer helped to encourage many useful tips and bits of information, though not, to our regret, to the positive identification and apprehension of the murderer(s) of Mr. Dan Mitrione. However, eight terrorists are being held and have been subjected to judicial processes for participating or being implicated in the kidnapping of Mr. Dan Mitrione and the Brazilian Consul.

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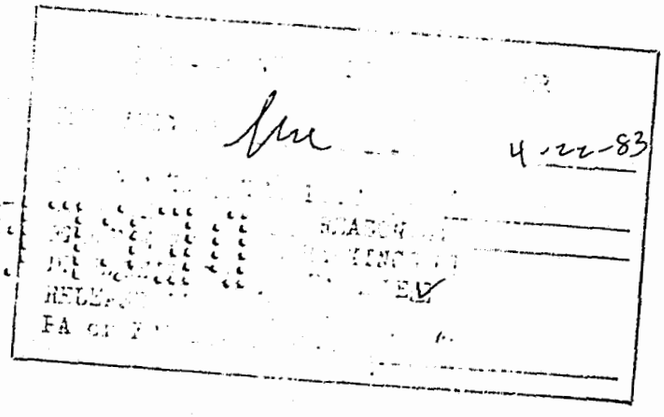
ARA/AP:



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I appreciate your continuing interest in this very difficult problem. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

c w/ C.S.P. /Gov

David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned

ARA/APU/U:DWCox:tag 2/2/71
retyped 2/26/71 - #1463

Clearances:
ARA/APU - Mr. Marasciulo
AA/LA - Mr. Kleine (draft)
ARA - Mr. Crimmins (draft)
A/BF - Mr. Donelan (draft)
O - Mr. Macomber (draft)

DECLASSIFIED - C.S. Bentin

DAVID W. DENNIS
10TH DISTRICT, INDIANA
1729 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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ANDERSON, INDIANA 46016
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January 28, 1971

AID(W)

ACTION is assigned to

FOR AID

Mr. David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Abshire:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of January 4th with reference to additional information concerning the late Dan A. Mitrione, in response to the request of his brother Ray Mitrione. I appreciated your Department's prompt and thorough action on the request.

With further reference to the same matter, I am enclosing a subsequent letter received from Mr. Ray Mitrione, and I would greatly appreciate having your comment on his suggestion.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Sincerely yours,

David W. Dennis

DAVID W. DENNIS
Member of Congress

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Enclosure
CC: Mr. Mitrione

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